

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 11346 210533Z

22-11

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /015 W

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P 210510Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4445

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEHRAN 11346

E.O.11652: N/A

SUBJ: AMSPEC MORROE BERGER'S INTERVENTION BENNY CARTER PROGRAMMING

REFS: A) TEHRAN 10845 AND B) 10891

1. NATIONAL IRANIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION (NIRT) HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ITS DIRECTOR REZA GHOTBI RECEIVED LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 9 FROM MORROE BERGER TO EFFECT THAT SINCE THERE WOULD BE NO BENNY CARTER QUINTET CONCERTS IN TEHRAN PERHAPS TELEVISION APPEARANCE COULD BE ARRANGED INSTEAD. NIRT QUERIED EMBASSY RE CARTER'S INTENTIONS.

2. REFTTEL A OF NOVEMBER 6 ADVISED DEPARTMENT OF ONE CITY THEATER (NIRT) CONCERT AND REFTTEL B OF NOVEMBER 9 REQUESTED SECOND CONCERT DECEMBER 25. NATURALLY NIRT CONFUSED BY BERGER/GHOTBI LETTER.

3. EMBASSY CANNOT EMPHASIZE STRONGLY ENOUGH THAT IT MUST HAVE EXCLUSIVE REPEAT EXCLUSIVE CONTROL PROGRAMMING CARTER/BERGER IN IRAN. INTERVENTION SUCH AS BERGER'S UNDERMINES EMBASSY EFFORTS AND COULD RESULT SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS ENTIRE VISIT.

4. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED NIRT THAT CARTER QUINTET WILL PERFORM DECEMBER 24 AND THAT WE ARE AWAITING WORD (URGENTLY NEEDED) REGARDING SECOND CONCERT DECEMBER 25. EMBASSY ADVISED NIRT THAT EMBASSY WAS EXCLUSIVE AGENT BENNY CARTER IN IRAN AND THAT NO OTHER INTERFERENCE BERGER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY MAKE COMPLETELY CLEAR TO BERGER THAT EMBASSY MUST BE PRIME AND SOLE CONTACT FOR ALL
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CARTER ARRANGEMENTS IN IRAN. IF BERGER HAS SUGGESTIONS THEY

SHOULD BE FORWARDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT TO EMBASSY. DIRECT
CONTACT BY HIM IS INAPPROPRIATE AND ONLY MUDDIES THE WATERS FOR
PLANNING OF THIS STATE DEPARTMENT SPONSORED PROGRAM.
HELMS

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